

(Current Inundation Mapping Tool Instructions)

Purpose:

The current inundation map feature is a mapping tool that provides current channel inundation based on information collected by gage stations strategically placed throughout Harris County bayous and their tributaries. This information is used by the Flood Control District and by Harris County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to inform the public of estimated inundation impacts across the County. It is not intended as a notification system for the issuing of flood watches, warnings, or evacuations. Instead, the estimated inundation data is provided to help you and emergency management officials make critical decisions that may ultimately reduce the risk of property damage, injuries and loss of life. The Flood Control District urges you and your family to use this information and take the appropriate precautions during times of heavy rain and flooding. You are encouraged to monitor inundation levels near your homes, places of work and areas along your daily commutes.

This tool generates a map of flood inundation along our bayous and creeks where we have water level gages. The tool runs continuously to provide live inundation mapping during a flood, though the results may be as much as 15 minutes behind real time due to the time required to generate the mapping from the gage data and will only show a new map if the gage data changes .50 of a foot. The inundation mapping will be shown to a zoom level of 500 feet and above. The map depicts current flood extent plus a 6 inch buffer, and does not include water depth. Inundation mapping has also been produced for a number of recent historical events.

Limitations: This tool does not show all flooding which may occur. This map will not depict flooding from:

- Channels and tributaries without gages.
- Ponding
 - The process, occurring during or after intense rainfall, when water gathers in low lying areas. Frequently referring to water standing in the streets when the capacity of the storm sewer is exceeded.
- Sheet flow
 - (Overland Flow Flooding) - Flooding that occurs when intense local rainfall flows overland to reach a channel. Frequently, this conditions exists when runoff exceeds storm sewer or roadside ditch capacity, and the water can "pond" in the streets deep enough to flood residences that are not even near a creek or bayou. The water will seek a path to the channel by flowing overland (Sheet Flow). When residences and other structures are in that path, flooding occurs.

Because the estimated inundation mapping is based on gage data, if gages become damaged in the field during a flood, the estimated inundation mapping will be based on less information and this may affect the accuracy of the estimate in the vicinity of the damaged gage. Harris County does not assume liability for the misuse or misinterpretation of any data included within this map. Use of these materials constitutes acceptance of this disclaimer of liability.

For questions, contact (713) 684-4000 or visit www.hcfd.org/contact-us/.